

REMARKS

Claims 3-9 are all the claims pending in the application. Reconsideration and allowance of all the claims are respectfully requested in view of the following remarks.

Claim Rejections - 35 U.S.C. § 112

The Examiner rejected claims 3, 4, and 7, under §112, 2nd paragraph, as indefinite. Applicant respectfully traverses this rejection because the claims are clear as written.

That is, claims 3 and 4 are directed to a method of manufacturing a bracket, and merely refer to claim 8 as a shorthand manner of setting out the type of bracket being manufactured. Similarly, claim 7 is directed to a goods-handling door, and merely refers to claim 8 as a shorthand manner of setting forth a bracket that is a part of that door. Further, each of claims 3, 4, and 7 includes all the limitations of claim 8. Thus, claims 3, 4, and 7 are properly dependent upon claim 8, and properly use that claim as a shorthand manner of setting forth the structure of the bracket. This is an acceptable manner of claiming, as set forth in MPEP §§ 2173.05(f) and 608.01(n)(III).

Notwithstanding the above, in claim 3, “A method of manufacturing a bracket according to claim 8” has be rewritten as “A method of manufacturing a bracket, wherein said bracket comprises the structure according to claim 8”. Claims 4 and 7 have be rewritten in a similar manner.

Claim Rejections - 35 U.S.C. § 102

The Examiner rejected claims 8, 9, and 7, under §102(e) as being anticipated by US Patent 5,655,586 to Cattaneo (hereinafter Cattaneo). Applicant respectfully traverses this rejection because Cattaneo fails to disclose every element as set forth in Applicant’s claims.

Claim 8 sets forth a unitary multi-function bracket comprising a face branch including at least one hole therethrough, a means for supporting a bearing of a rotary shaft, and a tab including at least one hole therethrough.

For example, as shown in Figs. 4 and 5, one embodiment of the unitary multi-function bracket comprises a face branch 113 including at least one hole 131, 132, 133 therethrough, a means 124 for supporting a bearing of a rotary shaft, and a tab 127 including at least one hole

128 therethrough. That is, the unitary multi-function bracket includes a means for supporting a bearing of a rotary shaft, i.e., the bracket is not just for supporting a guide for a rolling shutter, but also supports the shaft of the door itself. Thus, the one bracket as claimed can perform multiple functions, and is simpler, faster, more accurate, as well as less expensive to make than conventional brackets.

In contrast to that set forth in claim 1, Cattaneo discloses a flank 1 of a rolling shutter box, wherein the hole in the middle of the flank allows the rotary shaft to pass therethrough, but does not support the rotary shaft or a bearing thereof. Therefore Cattaneo fails to disclose a means for supporting a bearing of a rotary shaft, as set forth in claim 8.

For at least any one of the above reasons, Cattaneo fails to anticipate claim 8. Likewise, Cattaneo fails to anticipate dependent claims 9 and 7.

Claim Rejections - 35 U.S.C. § 103

The Examiner rejected claims 5 and 6 under §103(a) as being unpatentable over Cattaneo. Applicant respectfully traverses this rejection because Cattaneo fails to teach or suggest every element as set forth in Applicant's claims.

Each of claims 5 and 6 sets forth a unitary multi-function bracket comprising a face branch including at least one hole therethrough, a means for supporting a bearing of a rotary shaft, and a tab including at least one hole therethrough.

As noted above, Cattaneo fails to disclose a means for supporting a bearing of a rotary shaft. Further, Cattaneo fails to teach or suggest such a feature. Moreover, the Examiner has failed to assert that Cattaneo teaches or suggests such a feature. Instead, the Examiner asserts that one of ordinary skill in the art would have known to use a particular non-metallic material, a light metal, or alloy, to make Cattaneo's bracket. Therefore, *arguendo*, even assuming that one of ordinary skill in the art were motivated to modify Cattaneo as suggested by the Examiner, any such modification would still not include a means for supporting a bearing of a rotary shaft, as set forth in Applicant's claims.

For any one of the above reasons, Cattaneo fails to render obvious claims 5 and 6.

Allowable Subject Matter

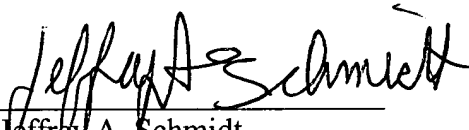
The Examiner did not apply any prior art against claims 3 and 4. Accordingly, because the rejection of these claims under §112 has been overcome, claims 3 and 4 are in condition for immediate allowance.

Conclusion

In view of the above, reconsideration and allowance of this application are now believed to be in order, and such actions are hereby solicited. If any points remain in issue which the Examiner feels may be best resolved through a personal or telephone interview, the Examiner is kindly requested to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

The USPTO is directed and authorized to charge all required fees, except for the Issue Fee and the Publication Fee, to Deposit Account No. 19-4880. Please also credit any overpayments to said Deposit Account.

Respectfully submitted,



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APPENDIX

VERSION WITH MARKINGS TO SHOW CHANGES MADE

IN THE CLAIMS:

The claims are amended as follows:

3. (Twice Amended) A method of manufacturing a bracket, wherein said bracket comprises the structure according to claim 8, the method comprising forming said bracket in a single operation, wherein said single operation is selected from molding, rotational molding, compression, injection molding, casting, thermoforming, stamping, forging, or machining.

4. (Twice Amended) A method of manufacturing a bracket, wherein said bracket comprises the structure according to claim 8, the method comprising forming the bracket by assembling together at least two pieces, wherein at least one of said pieces is obtained in a single forming operation selected from molding, rotational molding, compression, injection molding, casting, thermoforming, stamping, forging or machining.

7. (Amended) A goods-handling door, said goods handling door comprising [including] at least one bracket according to claim 8.

8. (Amended) A unitary multi-function bracket for a goods-handling door, said bracket comprising:

a face branch for fixing the bracket to a wall, wherein said face branch includes at least one hole therethrough;

[a support] means for supporting a bearing of a rotary shaft; and

a tab for fixing the bracket to a slideway, wherein said tab includes at least one hole therethrough.